

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

(40 CFR Parts 50, 51, 53, and 58)

[AD-FRL-     ]

National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone and  
Particulate Matter, Proposed Decision; Requirements for  
Designation of Reference and Equivalent Methods for PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
and Ambient Air Quality Surveillance for Particulate  
Matter, Proposed Decision; Interim Implementation Policy  
on New or Revised Ozone and Particulate Matter National  
Ambient Air Quality Standards, Proposed Policy; and  
Implementation of New or Revised Ozone and PM NAAQS and  
Regional Haze Regulations, Advanced Notice of Proposed  
Rulemaking

AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

ACTION: Extension of public comment period and  
announcement of availability of additional reports.

SUMMARY: The EPA is announcing the extension of the  
public comment period on the proposed revisions to the  
national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ozone  
(O<sub>3</sub>) (61 FR 65716) and particulate matter (PM) (61 FR  
65638), and proposed requirements for designation of  
reference and equivalent methods for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and ambient air  
quality surveillance for PM (61 FR 65780), all of which  
were published on December 13, 1996. The period of time  
for submitting written statements for the public hearing  
record for these proposals is also being extended. This  
notice also extends the public comment period for the  
proposed interim implementation policy on new or revised

O<sub>3</sub> and PM NAAQS (61 FR 65752), and the advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) for implementation of new or revised O<sub>3</sub> and PM NAAQS and regional haze regulations (61 FR 65764), published on December 13, 1996.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before March 12, 1997. Written statements for inclusion in the public hearing record must be received on or before March 12, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in duplicate if possible on the proposed actions to: Office of Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Attention: Docket No. \_\_\_\_, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. In addition, please add the appropriate docket number as follows: Proposed PM NAAQS, A-95-54; proposed O<sub>3</sub> NAAQS, A-95-58; proposed requirements for designation of reference and equivalent methods for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and ambient air quality surveillance for PM, A-96-51; and interim implementation policy on new or revised O<sub>3</sub> and PM NAAQS and the ANPR for implementation of new or revised O<sub>3</sub> and PM NAAQS and regional haze regulations, A-95-38. The dockets may be inspected at the above address between 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on weekdays, and a reasonable fee may be charged for

copying.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Part 50 Notice on O<sub>3</sub> NAAQS -- Dr. David McKee, Air Quality Strategies and Standards Division (MD-15), Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, telephone (919) 541-5288.

Part 50 Notice on PM NAAQS -- Ms. Patricia Koman, same address, telephone (919) 541-5170.

Part 51 Notice on interim implementation policy on new or revised O<sub>3</sub> and PM NAAQS and the ANPR for implementation of new or revised O<sub>3</sub> and PM NAAQS and regional haze regulations -- Ms. Sharon Reinders, same address, telephone (919) 541-5284.

Parts 53 and 58 Notices on requirements for designation of reference and equivalent methods for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and ambient air quality surveillance for PM -- Mr. Neil Frank, Monitoring and Quality Assurance Group (MD-14), Emissions, Monitoring, and Analysis Division, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, telephone (919) 541-5560.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 10, 1997, the court order entered in *American Lung Association v.*

*Browner*, CIV-93-643-TUC-ACM (D. Ariz., October 6, 1994), as modified, was further modified (1) by changing the date specified for the close of the public comment period in the review of the PM NAAQS to March 12, 1997, and (2) by changing the date for publication of a final decision to July 19, 1997.

In the order making these modifications, the Court stated that no further extensions will be granted. Because of the importance of progressing the O<sub>3</sub> and PM NAAQS reviews on the same schedule, EPA is making corresponding changes to the schedule for the O<sub>3</sub> NAAQS review and associated requirements for designation of reference and equivalent methods for monitoring PM<sub>2.5</sub> and ambient air quality surveillance for PM. In response to requests from the public, EPA is also extending the public comment period on the proposal of the interim implementation policy of new or revised O<sub>3</sub> and PM NAAQS and the advance notice of proposed rulemaking on the implementation of new or revised O<sub>3</sub> and PM NAAQS and regional haze regulations. Thus, EPA is extending the public comment period on the 40 CFR parts 50, 51, 53, and 58 proposals from February 18, 1997, to March 12, 1997.

Availability of Related Information

EPA has placed supplemental reports analyzing human exposure and health risk associated with the proposed and several alternative O<sub>3</sub> standards and estimating health risks associated with the proposed and alternative PM standards into the O<sub>3</sub> and PM dockets, respectively. The three documents are:

- 1) January 1997 supplement to "Estimation of Ozone Exposures Experienced by Outdoor Children in Nine Urban Areas Using a Probabilistic Version of NEM (April 1996),"
- 2) A Probabilistic Assessment of Health Risks Associated with Short-term Exposure to Tropospheric Ozone: A Supplement, January 1997, and 3) December 1996 supplement to "A Particulate Matter Risk Assessment for Philadelphia and Los Angeles (Revised, November 1996)."

These supplemental reports are also available to the public through the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) Technology Transfer Network (TTN) Bulletin Board System (BBS) in the Clean Air Act Amendments area, under Title I, Policy/Guidance Documents. To access the bulletin board, a modem and communications software are necessary. To dial up, set your communications software to 8 data bits, no parity and one stop bit. Dial (919) 541-5742 and follow the

on-screen instructions to register for access. After registering, proceed to choice "<T> Gateway to TTN Technical Areas", then choose "<E> CAAA BBS." From the main menu, choose "<1> Title I: Attain/Maint of NAAQS," then "<P> Policy Guidance Documents." To access these documents through the World Wide Web, click on "TTN BBSWeb," then proceed to the Gateway to TTN Technical areas, as above. If assistance is needed in accessing the system, call the help desk at (919) 541-5384 in Research Triangle Park, NC.

#### List of Subjects

40 CFR Part 50

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Carbon monoxide, Lead, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Particulate matter, Sulfur oxides.

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Date

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Assistant Administrator  
for Air and Radiation

6560-50-P